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OPENEARTH CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS-ABSTRACTS

SESSION: Policy-Stakeholders Involvement

Climate emergency adaption and sustainable management strategies

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Abstract

This paper discusses the way in which climate crisis-related strategies and the concepts of climate adaptation, sustainability and governance are being introduced into rural and agricultural landscapes. This forms part of a wider research focusing on pioneer landscape strategies across Europe, examining the extent to which low carbon can be delivered effectively and the ways in which policy guidance impacts on sustainable management strategies and implementation. This paper uses examples from the 'Landscape Observatory' (Catalonia) and the 'Room for the River' (the Netherlands).

Noordward is the largest rural location that the Room for the River programme has addressed, dealing with agricultural land, farming and nature reserves on a strategic scale. An investigation on climate adaptation issues in Noordward, demonstrates the potential and significance of introducing the ideas of landscape, low carbon and governance as vital aspects of rural infrastructure and the ways in which agricultural land and water are managed. The threat of flooding of agricultural land is countered with innovative landscape designs and new policies that explicitly consider the climate crisis. In addition, the paper demonstrates how the Landscape Observatory has changed public opinion by putting landscape at the core of development, to the extent that there is now a public law protecting landscape in Catalonia. Established and run based on the principles of the European Landscape Convention, the Landscape Observatory has had a significant and positive impact on the development of landscape policies in the region. Focusing on the area of Lluçanès,

the establishment of a Landscape Charter protecting the agricultural land and examining the natural area of La Cerdanya in Pyrenees, spread between Catalonia and France, the research extracts best practices in policy and legislation as well as

participatory methods on climate and landscape awareness and communication methods between different countries and cultures.

This research concludes that the establishment of a solid project framework and communication strategy, supported by policies, legislation and governance structures, in conjunction with appropriate procurement processes and a wider understanding of the role of landscape result in significantly improved responses to deal with the challenges of the climate emergency and climate adaptation in rural and agricultural areas.